SVN3M | Assignment #2 Mr. Zuberi

**Analyzing a Media Article on an Environmental Issue**

Objective: We are to use a research process to locate a media report on a contemporary environmental issue (e.g., climate change, melting of the polar ice cap, acid precipitation, deforestation, overfishing, oil-sands operations), summarize its arguments, and assess their validity from a scientific perspective [IP, PR, AI, C]  
  
Task #1: The Research Process

1. After having an exposure to the variety of environmental issues that exist, you have to find the issues covered by media articles that are of interest to you.
2. Searching on Google can produce many results that are not specific to what you are looking for. Using quotation marks is one way of narrowing down the search results to what you are looking for. Consider the following two searches.

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| “article” “melting ice caps” |

* Results will include webpages that are articles that use the specific phrase   
  “melting ice caps”.

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| article melting ice caps |

* Results will include any webpages that include these words in any order or any context.

Both these methods have advantages and disadvantages. Keep a record of the keywords you have searched for and describe how you arrived at articles worthy of studying.

1. Locate a few articles addressing different environmental issues and discuss which one is most understandable, comprehensive in providing background information, and arguments that can be assessed scientifically. Then choose one article to proceed with.

Task #2: Article Analysis

1. Identify the problems and/or questions in the article. Using Google, present any background information that is needed to explain any unfamiliar terminology or issue presented in the article. Provide references.
2. Identify any opinions presented in the article.
3. Identify and summarize the arguments into a table
4. Assess the validity of the scientific arguments. As discussed in class, an argument is valid if and only if the truth of its premises entails the truth of its conclusion. Each step, sub-argument, or logical operation in the argument is valid. By doing further research online, you can gather examples of invalid arguments related to the environmental issue you are pursuing. You can check whether these invalid arguments compare with any of the arguments you have listed in your table.
5. Using the scientific terminology learned in class, write an analysis of your article that is three quarters of a page that synthesizes steps 4 to 7.
6. Submit the article with references (use MLA or APA). Also submit your work on steps 2 and 3.

**Due**: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013

**Criteria**:

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|  | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| Research Process and Methodology *- Knowledge & Understanding* | Limited search methods are used to find articles | Some search methods are used to find articles | Searching techniques are generally well used to find comprehensive articles | Advanced search methods are apparent and are used to find comprehensive articles |
| Inquiry & Problem Identification *- Thinking & Inquiry* | Limited presentation of the problem(s) or question(s) in the article & limited background information is provided | Some of the problem(s) or question(s) are identified and some of the necessary background information is provided | A discussion is provided that mostly covers the problems or questions in the article, including necessary background information | A thorough discussion on the problems or questions in the article, including necessary background is provided |
| Argument analysis *- Application* | Limited application of concepts of validity and analysis to assess arguments | Some application of concepts of validity and analysis to assess arguments | Mostly applying concepts of validity and analysis to assess arguments | Thoroughly applying concepts of validity and analysis to assess arguments |
| Scientific terminology *- Communication* | Limited use of proper grammar and scientific terminology and is apparent. | Some use of proper grammar and scientific terminology is apparent. | Use of proper grammar and scientific terminology is mostly apparent | Accurate grammar and thorough use of scientific terminology (i.e., inference, deduction) |